

the central authority itself show how provincial and royal administration were brought into touch with one another,

• While Sicily and Calabria under the first two counts had been subjected to a systematised government! Apulia, and Salerno, only half-organised by Guiscard, had fallen since his death into chaos or rather into a hundred units of government,

The more powerful nobles such as Robert of Loritello in the Abruzzi claimed sovereign independence; other Norman lords vaguely accepted

Greek suzerainty; one and all the barons exercised

practical supreme jurisdiction* civil and criminal,

over the communes and petty rural towns in their

lordships, Communal, no less than feudal. In-

dependence was widespread, Of the Apulian

towns alone. Ban for twenty years a*¹ Signory,"

having a constitutional prince who

by

the *nobilios* of the city; Molfetta and Trani

vigorous communes; Troia, with a constitution

granted by Honorius II., had a government of

nobiliores under the constitutional presidency of

the Bishop. Thus the greater towns of Apulia

in 1030 had practically excluded both ducal and

episcopal jurisdiction, and their walls

the
citizens knew no courts or higher
their own.

The smaller rural towns of the

with
the districts around them, naturally
more
subject to the officials of the
The latter still bear the which a